

Serial No.: 10/519,717
Atty. Docket No.: P70334US0

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed February 7, 2008, has been carefully reviewed and, by this Amendment, Applicants have amended claims 15-18, 20, 23 and 26-28, and added claims 30-34. Accordingly, claims 15-34 are pending in the application. Claims 15 and 30 are independent. In view of the amendments and the following remarks, favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejected claims 15-17, 19, 23-26 and 28-29 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,699,319 to Skrivervik in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,646,634 to Bokhari et al. ("Bokhari"). Also under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the Examiner rejected claim 18 as being unpatentable over Skrivervik in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,798,984 to Koch, rejected claims 20-22 as being unpatentable over the combination of Skrivervik and Bokhari and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,853,605 to Fujisawa et al. ("Fujisawa"), and rejected claim 27 as being unpatentable over the combination of Skrivervik and Bokhari and further in view of U.S. Publication No. 2002/0071346 to Paratte.

As clarified in amended claim 15, the present invention is directed to a timepiece comprising a middle, a watch movement housed in the middle, a transceiver circuit associated with the

movement and an antenna connected to the transceiver circuit. The antenna, which is connected to the transceiver circuit by a conductor that passes through the wall of the middle, is formed by a solid electrically conductive monobloc mass having the shape of at least a portion of a ring that is disposed on the outer periphery of the middle. To clarify the intended meaning of "outer" periphery of the middle, Applicants have added the phrase "so as to be externally visible" (see the specification on page 2, lines 2-5; page 3, lines 34-36; page 4, lines 9-12; etc.). This structure is not shown by the prior art.

Skrivervik discloses a timepiece having a case 2 that forms a "middle". The middle or case 2 is enclosed between a crystal 21 and a lower case 5. Hence, the antenna 4 is *not* disposed on the *outer* periphery of the middle but is *inside* the case and hence clearly not externally visible.

Moreover, not only does Skrivervik not disclose an external antenna, Skrivervik teaches against such positioning by advocating a component arrangement in which the antenna and the micro receiver 6 are close together in order to minimize the length of the transmission line (see column 4, lines 62-64). Since the micro receiver 6 is positioned inside the case 2, along with the antenna 4, there is nothing that would motivate the

Serial.No.: 10/519,717
Atty. Docket No.: P70334US0

skilled person to place the antenna outside the case 2, i.e., further from the micro receiver.

In addition, as noted by the Examiner, Skrivervik does not disclose an antenna formed by a solid *electrically conductive monobloc mass*. Instead, the antenna in Skrivervik is formed by printed circuit conductive elements 11, 12 on a substrate that is preferably flexible (see column 2, lines 60-66; column 3, lines 1-17; column 4, lines 20-26)). There is nothing in Skrivervik to suggest replacement of such an antenna with a mass antenna.

The antenna of Bokhari has a solid disc-shaped structure that is not suitable for placement on the *outer periphery* of a timepiece. The skilled person wanting to modify Skrivervik to include a mass antenna would, at most, consider placement of the antenna of Bokhari inside the middle or case 2, although neither Skrivervik nor Bokhari suggest how this would be done. But the only suggestion for modifying Skrivervik to include a mass antenna that is arranged as a ring, or at least a portion thereof *on the outer periphery of the middle so as to be externally visible*, as claimed by the present invention, comes from Applicants' own disclosure. Accordingly, claim 15 is patentable over the prior art.

Serial No.: 10/519,717
Atty. Docket No.: P70334US0

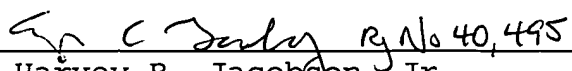
New claim 30 is also in condition for allowance for the same reasons as claim 15, further specifying that the antenna is external and affixed to the outer periphery of the middle. This construction is representatively supported in the specification on page 3, lines 27-31, and original claim 8, and is not shown or suggested by the prior art as discussed above in connection with claim 15.

Claims 16-29 and 31-34 are also in condition for allowance as claims properly dependent on an allowable base claim and for the subject matter contained therein.

With this amendment and the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, the Examiner is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned attorney so that the present application can receive an early Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: August 7, 2008
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